

Editorial & Opinion

Looking forward to a peaceful yet productive August

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

It is a pleasure to greet you once again in this column after a July free of writing. The month was a very pleasant one. During the first half I enjoyed a much relaxed schedule and in the second half, a full-blown vacation. Both portions were most enjoyable and welcome respites after a year that was quite busy.

I had a chance to spend time with my family in Waterford and enjoyed some time at the ocean with my old friends Tom Powers and Howard Hubbard.

All of the Early girls are doing well. Grace returns to Hudson Valley Community College this month. Jane begins Canisius College. Mary Ellen, Margaret and Kathleen begin 12th, 10th and sixth grade, respectively. All of them, save Kathleen, worked through the summer, but found time for fun and relaxation as well. As I've mentioned before, it's a great pleasure to watch them grow and a thorough joy to be with them — even though that means being given a hard time by the crowd of them.

My return to the office yesterday was peaceful enough. There is always plenty to do, but there were no urgent matters or pressing deadlines to be dealt with. That is due to the relative quiet of the summer months, but even

Along the Way



more so to the generosity and ability of people who serve us at the Pastoral Center.

I hope that August remains peaceful as it unfolds, since I have some projects to which I would like to devote some long, quiet hours. I want to work on the implementation of the recommendations made by our Five Year Financial Planning Committee. I also want to spend time studying the document on women to be issued by Pope John Paul II on the Feast of the Assumption. That, I am sure, will entail some revision of the draft of "Partners in the Mystery of Redemption." I also want to write some reflections on my experience and hopes as a bish-

op, as part of an evaluation of my ministry which our Priests' Council has graciously agreed to oversee for me.

I won't be spending the whole month in the office, however. I look forward to visits with the faith community at St. Vincent's, Corning, as it celebrates 75 years of parish life and with our friends at Christ the King in Irondequoit for the dedication of their new parish center. Late in August I am going to San Francisco to participate in a program on "Partners in the Mystery of Redemption."

In September we will have our customary round of meetings for the Thanks Giving Appeal and another series of meetings to continue to develop our action plan for our Catholic schools. In the early part of October, Bishop Hickey and I will be joining the other bishops of New York state on a journey to Rome to make our *ad limina* visit and to present a report on the state of our diocese during the past five years. More about these events at a later time.

Many thanks to all of you who sent greetings on my birthday during July. Your kindness makes the aging process even more pleasant than it already is.

Peace to all.

Leaves readers with final thoughts

To the editor:

I have just been informed that I have been asked by the editor of the *Courier-Journal* if I consider myself a member of the Diocese of Rochester, and that my letter would be published to that effect. However, before I give my answer, I would like to preface it with a clarification which should also show the rationale of the traditional Roman Catholic.

There are three essential qualities which distinguish a religion. These are: 1) the way one worships, 2) the doctrines one believes, and 3) the moral beliefs by which one governs his life. Thus by the worship, doctrine and morals of a religion is it distinguishable from other religions. The religion that I steadfastly and uncompromisingly adhere to is the Roman Catholic Religion such as it was up to Vatican Council II. It was, a St. Vincent of Lerins reminds us, *Quod Semper, Quod Ubique, Quod Ab Omnibus*, "What Always, What Everywhere, What by Everyone Was Done." The religion today that manifests itself in the local parishes is clearly different in its worship, doctrine and morality. Thus when you compare these two religions there are very few comparisons, indeed, but innumerable contrasts. I have not met, nor do I ever intend to meet, anybody who believes that there is no difference in the Church since the Council. Hence, the new religion of V.C. II belongs to the new "Conciliar Church," as Cardinal Benelli let slip out some years ago, and not to the Roman Catholic Church.

Having been allowed to say all this — I am quite presumptuous here — it should now be

Letters

quite apparent that since the Diocese of Rochester, meaning the bishop and fellow assistants, has embraced the religion of the "Conciliar Church" and I inflexibly adhere to the Roman Catholic Faith, I could not in any conceivable manner be considered a member of the Diocese of Rochester.

Before I disappear from the pages of the *Courier-Journal*, I would like to leave one final thought for readers to ponder and meditate upon. In the ancient and venerable Catholic hymn "Faith of Our Fathers," the refrain is most important. It goes: "Faith of Our Fathers, Holy Faith, We will be true to thee till death." Traditional Roman Catholics take these words in the strictest literal sense. For, as St. Athanasius wrote to traditional Catholics in the fourth century, after he was excommunicated and banished: "Even if Catholics faithful to tradition are reduced to a handful, they are the True Church of Jesus Christ" (Coll. selecta SS Eccl. Patrum, Caillau and Guillou Vol. 32, pp. 411-412).

Thank you.

Michael A. More
Dunbar Street
Rochester

CHD director thanks diocese for contributions

To the editor:

I wish to thank the people of the Diocese of Rochester for their continuing and generous support of the Campaign for Human Development. A check for \$55,476 has been received at the national office, for distribution nationally to self-help projects controlled by

Relates Medjugorje to Fatima

To the editor:

I refer to an article in the *Courier-Journal's* July 21 issue, "Reports of Soviet apparitions herald improbable summit."

Josyp Terelya, mentioned in the article, connects the Marian Year with the era of which Mary spoke to Lucy of Fatima.

The Marian Year is a part of the prophesy of Fatima — in fact, I am offering my gift to be placed at the Marian shrine in Poland.

Stephanie Swift
Wellsburg

the poor themselves and designed to remove the causes of poverty.

In his most recent encyclical letter "On Social Concerns," Pope John Paul II writes:

"... this love of preference for the poor, and the decisions which it inspires in us, cannot but embrace the immense multitudes of the hungry, the needs, the homeless, those without medical care and, above all, those without hope of a better future."

By their continued support, the people of your diocese are helping us to operationalize within our country "this love of preference for the poor." Through their support, hope is enabled to blossom in lives that are lived without hope of a better future.

In the name of the Campaign for Human Development, I want to express sincere thanks to Ms. Melissa Marquez, CHD diocesan director in the diocese.

Father Alfred LoPinto
Executive Director

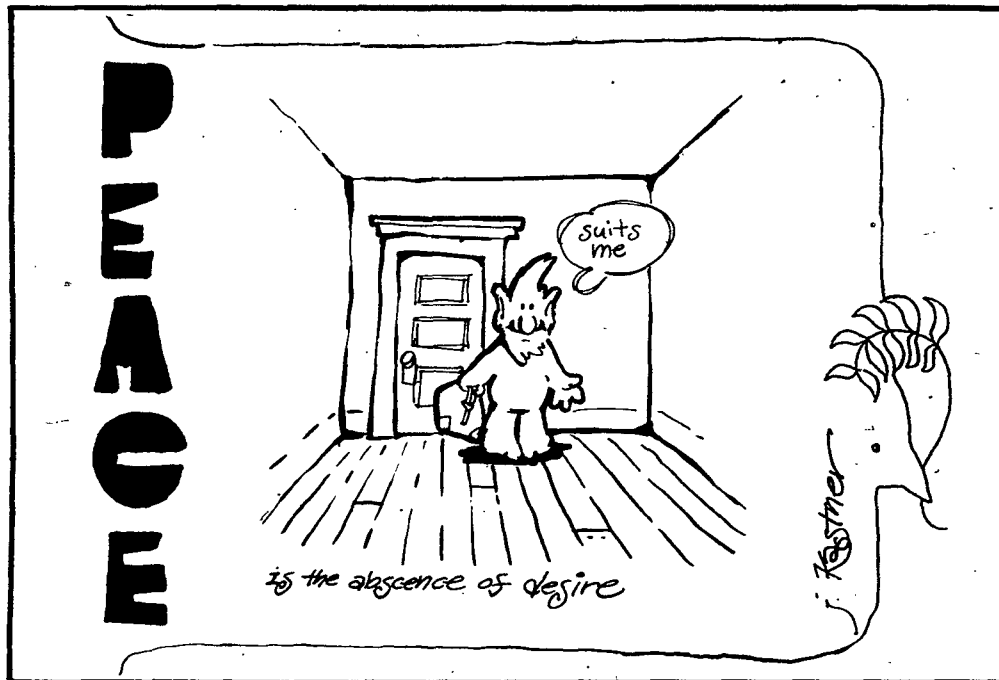
C-J Letters Policy

The *Courier-Journal* wishes to provide space for readers throughout the diocese to express opinions on all sides of the issues. We welcome all *signed, original* letters about current issues affecting Church life.

Although we cannot publish every letter we receive, we seek, insofar as possible, to provide a balanced representation of expressed opinions and a variety of reflections on life in the Church. We will

choose letters for publication based on likely reader interest, timeliness and a sense of fair play. Our discerning readers may determine whether to agree or disagree with the opinions of the letter writers.

We reserve the right to edit all letters. Mail them to: *Courier-Journal*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY, 14624. Please include your full name as well as telephone number and complete address for verification purposes.



Are covenant's provisions being ignored?

To the editor:

On the feast of Pentecost (May 22), eight Corning-area people and I journeyed to Rochester to witness what we believed to be the most far-reaching ecumenical event that we may ever see. Three of our group are Episcopal priests, and I am the only Roman Catholic member. This event that held so much promise for us was the signing of a covenant between our Catholic diocese and the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester. The pageantry was magnificent, and the rhetoric was uplifting. We drove back south singing the praises of our God that had begun to answer our prayer that is the echo of Jesus prayer for UNITY. The words of (Episcopal) Bishop William (Burrill) were still in our ears: "... to remain apart is scandalous!"

What went wrong? We were to pray for "our Bishops Matthew and William" during our liturgy. Our church, St. Catherine of Siena in Addison, is not doing so. Is yours? There are

other provisions of this profound document as yet unmentioned and unfulfilled. Apart from a short statement by "our" Bishop Matthew Clark, there has been no mention of this event or the covenant it produced. Why not?

Since I was a little boy in Catholic school, I have anguished for our separated brethren. Jesus' prayer for unity (John 17) contrasted with what we as human beings have done to His Church is an abomination. We have the chance for a beginning in this covenant. What are we doing with it?

I. Michael Mangione
Main Street
Addison

EDITOR'S NOTE: The *Courier-Journal* featured an article on the covenant agreement on page 4 of our April 14 edition. In the coming weeks, we plan to publish a follow-up article on how the agreement is being implemented.

Latin made Catholics feel at home at Masses everywhere

To the editor:

Though we all know that Our Lord Jesus did not speak Latin (C-J July 14: "It's not right to say Jesus chose Latin for use at Mass"), the world is made up of people who speak many, many languages. Before Vatican II travelers anywhere felt very much at home in any Catholic church in any country because the Mass was said in the same language everywhere: Latin!

Not only was the traveler able to follow the service but able to participate by voicing or singing the responses at high Mass.

Just picture yourself in a church in France, Germany, India or Japan. If you don't speak those languages you would feel lost and left out of the Holy Sacrifice. Think about it ...

C. Edilia Bidwell
Rd. 3
Trumansburg

Bible school 'champion' offers solutions to social ills

To the editor:

I'm a student at (St. Monica's/St. Augustine's) VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL. I am 9 years old. I'm a CHAMPION FOR JESUS! I'm concerned about the drug problem. I think that their should be a drug trade in program. Any body that turns in drugs will get help and

money. I am also concerned about the homeless and unemployed. I think that unemployed should build houses for the homeless.

Sincerely,

Evans Reeder
Gleason Circle
East Rochester

A whole Church exists between liberal, conservative poles

To the editor:

To quote Father McBrien's article in today's (July 14's) paper: "If the existence of liberal-conservative/left-right tendencies in all walks of life is self-evident, why do some Catholics resist acknowledging their existence in the

Church itself?"

Good heavens, I *do* acknowledge it! It's called polarization! There's a whole Church in between!

Kathy Crane
Martinot Avenue
Rochester